Planning Ahead for Growth

The Transportation and Land Use Subcommittee elected to advance as a supplemental policy the Planning Ahead for Growth (Planning Ahead) Initiative, led by the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED), as an umbrella for a number of policies.

This Policy is being implemented. In June 2013, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, EOHED, and MassDOT issued a Common Vision for Growth embracing the MA Sustainable Development Principles and the Planning Ahead approach. The agencies will use Planning Ahead as the organizing framework to work with communities and regions to advance policies (e.g. Regional Planning Initiatives, Housing that Works Initiative, Transportation Mode Shift goals, and Clean Energy and Climate Plan greenhouse gas reductions) which support housing and economic development, environmental, energy, and transportation goals which are consistent with the MA Sustainable Development Principles.

The Planning Ahead strategy is represented by four core principles: Identify, Create, Invest and Market, under which many of the State's land use, fiscal, and transportation policies align to encourage development that will support the State's long term environmental and economic sustainability goals. The key is to achieve synergy such that a combination of new policies and enhanced results from existing efforts produces better development and lower GHG emissions than are presently anticipated.